GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:851
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Use of Drinking Water for Sanitation Purpose
Misra Shri Pinaki

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of drinking water that is used for sanitation purposes is more than that which is used for drinking purposes in almost all the households;
(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the matter including segregation of supply of water for drinking and sanitation purposes in order to check wastage of safe drinking water; and
(c) the estimated cost involved in such exercise in each State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) to (c) Yes Madam. The Ministry, under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), deals with provision of drinking water to the rural population of the country only. As per the current norms the basic minimum requirement of potable drinking water is 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd). The vision for rural domestic water supply in the Strategic Plan of the Ministry is to cover all rural households with safe piped drinking water supply with availability of 70 lpcd. However, as an interim measure the norm of 55 lpcd has been fixed and out of this, 3 lpcd is for drinking purpose whereas 10 lpcd is for ablution / toilets (sanitation purposes).

The norms have been fixed taking into consideration the minimum drinking water requirement and the consumer as a unit. The said usage norms are indicative and inter se usages may vary depending on the consumer preferences and the demand of the situation.

Bifurcating the usage of water for various purposes e.g. sanitation, drinking and other purposes is not practicable / feasible as it would necessitate creation of different supply sources for different end usages and would restrict the inter se choice of consumer with regard to usage of water for various domestic purposes.